

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this, the first Action in the case, the Examiner objected to claims 17-18 for improper format. In response, applicants have canceled claim 17 and have redirected dependency of claim 18 from claim 17 to claim 11. Applicants therefore request that the objection to claims 17-18 as amended be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to claim 12 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. In response, applicants have amended claim 12 to address the Examiner's concerns. Applicants therefore request that the objection to claim 12 as amended be withdrawn.

The Examiner also rejected claim 12 under 35 USC §103 (a) over Eisler et al. (US patent no. 6,078,942). In response, applicants have amended claim 12 along the lines of claim 11 which was deemed allowable. Applicants therefore request that the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 12 as amended be withdrawn.

Applicants have taken this opportunity to add new claims 19-21 to the application. These claims are modeled on claims 13, 14, and 16, respectively.

The Examiner's objections and rejection having been attended to, applicants suggest that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore request that the application be reconsidered and thereafter be passed to issue.

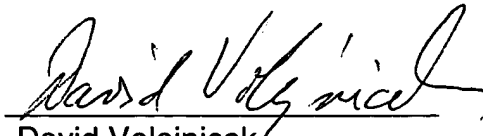
Applicants deem the foregoing to be dispositive of all issues in the application. But, if the Examiner should deem that a telephone interview

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would advance prosecution, applicants request that the Examiner call their attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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